

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-14 and 19-20 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-14 are allowed. Amendments to claims 19 and 20 are proposed herein. New claims 23 and 24 are proposed to be added herein. The amendments add no new matter.

Claims 19 and 20 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Prusiner et al. in view of Foster et al. While Applicants disagree with the rejection, Applicants propose herein to amend claims 19 and 20 to recite that the “first binding partner is a single chain antibody or scFv.” It is submitted that neither of the Prusiner et al. or Foster et al. references teaches or suggests that the first labeled reagent is a single chain antibody or scFv. The amendment added to each of these claims finds support in claim 17 as originally filed and in the specification at page 6, lines 18-20 and page 8, lines 3-5. Applicants submit that because neither reference teaches or suggests a kit meeting this limitation, claims 19 and 20 as proposed to be amended cannot be obvious over the cited art.

Claims 23 and 24, proposed to be added herein, are similarly drawn to kits. The kits of claims 23 and 24, rather than requiring that the first labeled binding partner be a single chain antibody or scFv, require that both the first and second binding partners are labeled with enzyme domains which associate to form a functional receptor molecule when both binding partners are bound to the protein. This limitation is supported in claim 11 as originally filed and in the specification at, for example, page 17, lines 24-29. Applicants submit that neither the Prusiner et al. nor the Foster et al. reference teaches or suggests this limitation. As such, Applicants submit that proposed new claims 23 and 24 cannot be obvious over the cited art.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that all issues outstanding in the application have been addressed herein. Entry of the proposed amendments is believed to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Serial No.: 09/511,776

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. If, for any reason, the Examiner does not believe the claims as amended herein to be in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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